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USTR RESPONDS TO CANADA'S ACTIONS ON BORDER DISPUTE

In response to an announcement by Canadian officials yesterday that they have filed formal action against the United States at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and under Chapter 20 of the NAFTA concerning a Canada-U.S. border dispute, U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky today issued the following statement:

“Last night, I made it very clear to Canada’s Trade Minister Sergio Marchi that these actions do not bring us any closer to solving issues at the U.S.-Canada border. While Canada certainly has the right to take these steps, we need to directly address the issues in front of us in an open and constructive manner.”

“The Administration is focused on the underlying severe economic conditions that persist in substantial areas of the U.S. agricultural industry. We also are highly concerned about Canada’s agricultural trade policies. It is time for Canada to take decisive action to level the playing-field.”